

cloture rule in the past was, before we had cloture, was that you'd file an amendment or a motion to cease debate, then no more amendments could be filed. And you filed that motion up there. But it would not have a priority status. So if it was sitting down on the list and other senators had amendments above it, they would then move to amend their amendment, move to divide those amendments, have roll call votes on each of those divisions, move to reconsider, and we got into a true, what I would call, parliamentary filibuster environment, where one side deliberately was delaying and causing the other side not to be able to get to a vote, which I personally think is a right given to the minority, whomever that may be on whatever issue. But when we debated the cloture rule, those of us that were here at the time, the cloture rule, the main argument on cloture was we did not want to...we wanted to find a way to stop that type of filibustering, we wanted to be able to stop a group from simply using parliamentary maneuvers to keep us from getting to a vote. And again I voted against the cloture rule, but the majority of the...my colleagues voted yes, and we have the cloture rule that was established to stop the type of dilatory delay tactics that the majority was being subjected to by many people. Sometimes Senator Dierks used it to good effect at times, and Senator Lindsay, and Senator Hall, and Senator Chambers, myself and others throughout the past. But just take some time, if you get a chance this evening, sit back and think about it when you get a moment. What did we do today? There was no delaying tactics, there was no procedural move to try to stop or delay anything. In fact, if you go back and look at the debate on each one of the amendments, the debate was taking place by people all over the Legislature, people who are supporting the bill, people who are against the bill, it was a good, thorough debate on those issues by many, many senators. And what we now have done, which I look as pressure from the outside, from the Governor's office, who want to get their bill moved on, and I don't blame them, but they're not a part of our system, they are not...they don't have to work with our system, they just have to get their cause done because that's what they get paid to do. What we did today is we did not stop a filibuster, we used our procedural motion to stop a filibuster, to simply say we don't want to debate anymore and we don't want to talk about any of the amendments, we just want to move it onto the next round of debate and we'll start again, taking away one time of debate on those amendments. And I put to my colleagues if we're going to make a single house continue to be successful in the future, these issues are not going to get any easier, and they're going to be even more